

Honors American Literature

Syllabus - Spring 2026

Course Information

Course: Honors English 3

Instructor: Summers

Meeting Times: M-F

Prerequisites: Honors English 2

Instructor Information

- Instructor Name: Sam Summers
- Office Telephone Number: 232-4123
- Email Address: sam.summers@bcsemail.org
- Office Location: Birch 223
- Office Hours In-Person: M-F 2nd block
- Communication:
 - My preferred form of communication is sam.summers@bcsemail.org. Please feel welcome to e-mail me with any questions. If you need to set up a Zoom one-on-one or a phone call, e-mail me and I will immediately make sure we can connect. I will usually respond to emails within 24 hours during the workweek.

Course Description

Honors American Literature & Composition is a rigorous course that emphasizes the elements of context, audience, purpose. Students learn how to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate fiction and nonfiction texts: essays, biographies, autobiographies, speeches, and passages from writings in the arts, history, social science, politics, science, visual media, and other areas of study. Students learn to evaluate and construct arguments drawn from articles found within newspapers, magazines, and online. The course is interdisciplinary, immersing students in a variety of sources. Students construct arguments drawn from their own observations, experiences, and readings; they learn to synthesize as a result of their own research opportunities; and they learn to analyze arguments both for their appeals – ethos, logos, pathos – and for the contexts in which these arguments appear. Additionally, the students will be held accountable for standards that dictate American Literature as mandated by North Carolina.

Course Overview

All the work we do in class is to prepare students to pass the ACT exam and future college English courses, but also to develop an appreciation for LIFE. The course focuses on expository, analytical and argumentative writing assignments that are heavily based on fiction and nonfiction readings. Performance expectations are appropriately high, and the workload is challenging. Students are expected to commit to outside coursework and reading.

Course Objectives – The student will

- Read critically, think analytically, and communicate clearly.
- Analyze and interpret complex texts orally and in writing.
- Understand relationships among an author's purpose, audience, and subject.
- Develop stylistic consciousness in both reading and writing.
- Evaluate and write expository, analytical, and argumentative essays.
- Apply effective writing strategies and techniques.

- Collaborate in small groups on oral presentations and written assignments.
- Develop research skills, particularly evaluating and integrating information.

Course Textbooks and Novels:

Various, *Into the Wild*, *The Things They Carried* – Alternatives can be given upon request.

Grading Calculations:

Homework/Daily work: 35%

Writing Projects: 45%

Final Exam: 20% of final grade

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 60

Deadlines

Because this class is designed to prepare you for college classes (ENG 112, ENG 232, and ENG 242), latework is discouraged. You will have plenty of time to complete the work before it is due. If there are extenuating circumstances, please email me as soon as possible. Additionally, as long as you submit major assignments on time, revisions can be made after discussing them with me. Otherwise, the assignment will receive a zero unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Formative assessments

NoRedInk

CommonLit

Say Mean Matter paragraphs

One Pagers

Groupwork

Daily work

Summative assessments

Narrative Essay

Annotated Bibliography

Researched Argumentative Essay

Literary Analysis Essay

Capstone Presentation

ACT Exam date: March 14

Classroom Rules and Procedures

- **Attendance** is critical. Please try to be in class and on time every day. Online - Camera on.
- **Behavior:** Respect is crucial and I expect everyone to be treated with respect.
- **Make-up Work:** If you are absent one day, you get two days to make up the work. If you are absent two days, you get three days to make up the work. If you are absent more than three days, you get a week to make up the work.
- **Academic Honesty:** Students will do their own work. Period. Any student caught or suspected of cheating will receive a zero/cheat for that assignment. I will call parents upon the very first offense and write a disciplinary referral. Second offense will result in a disciplinary referral. Blatant plagiarism, downloading essays from the internet and copying another student's homework or essays are all considered cheating. Challenge yourself and do it on your own!
- **Organization:** Organization is the key to success in this class. I recommend a GoogleDocs folder devoted for this class.

Students,

It is our goal to help you be successful in this class, but we cannot do it alone. We need your full commitment to keeping an open mind and a willingness to work. You will enjoy and benefit from class discussions if you come prepared each and every day. If there is something you don't understand, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or set up a time to meet. Please share this syllabus with your parents. Then, please sign the form and have your parents sign it.

Regards,

Mr. Summers

Honors American Literature

I have read and shared the syllabus and rules and procedures with my parent(s). I will comply with all of the rules and procedures you have established for this class.

Electronic signature is acceptable.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Student contact info: Cellphone:

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please let me know the best way to communicate with the parent/guardian.
Preferred contact method (phone, text, or email):

First Nine Weeks